



FACT SHEET

RSVP

RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is part of Senior Corps, a network of national service programs that provides older Americans the opportunity to apply their life experience to meeting community needs. RSVP volunteers serve in a diverse range of nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and faith-based groups. Among other activities, they mentor at-risk youth, organize neighborhood watch programs, test drinking water for contaminants, teach English to immigrants, and lend their business skills to community groups that provide critical social services. In fiscal year 2001, approximately 480,000 volunteers served an average of four hours a week at an estimated 65,000 local organizations.

Eligibility

RSVP is open to people age 55 and over.

Partners/Operations

Local organizations, both public and private, receive grants to sponsor and operate RSVP projects in their community. These projects recruit seniors to serve from a few hours a month to almost full time, though the average commitment is four hours a week. Most volunteers are paired with local community and faith-based organizations that are already helping to meet community needs.

Volunteer Benefits

RSVP volunteers are not paid, but sponsoring organizations may reimburse them for some costs incurred during service. RSVP provides appropriate volunteer insurance coverage, and volunteers receive pre-service orientation and in-service training from the agency or organization where they are placed.

Budget

RSVP's fiscal year 2001 federal budget of \$48.8 million was matched with \$46.7 million contributed by states, local governments, and the private sector. Its fiscal year 2002 enacted budget is \$54.9 million.

Senior Corps Network

RSVP is part of Senior Corps, which also includes the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs. Senior Corps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. Together, the programs of the Corporation engage more than 2 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities each year.

More Information

To learn more about RSVP and other Senior Corps programs or to find opportunities to participate, call 800-424-8867 or TTY 800-833-3722 or go to www.seniorcorps.org.

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